

Counterpoise

The Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon

Volume XLXI

January 2010

Number 1



Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon meets every 2nd Thursday at 7:00 pm at the First Lutheran Church of El Cajon. The address is 867 South Lincoln Ave. Next meeting: January 14, 2010 7:00 pm

Table of Contents

From The President	Page 2
Meeting Minutes	Page 3
From The Vice President	Page 4
Calendar of Events	Page 4
Membership Application	Page 5
Fun Page	Page 6
Ask an Elmer	Page 7
Editor's Corner	Page 8
Public Relations	Page 8
Quote of the Month	Page 8
Joke	Page 8
Crest Radio Museum	Page 9
Chicken Noodle Soup	Page 10
Membership	Page 13
ARCEC Photos	Page 15
Chreistmas Dinner Photos	Page 16
Chreistmas Dinner Photos	Page 17
Monica Zech PIO EL Cajon	Page 18
At Large	Page 19

All Official written communication is to be submitted to:

A.R.C.E.C. P.O. Box 50, El Cajon, CA 92022
The Counterpoise is a publication of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon (ARCEC). It is published once monthly and contributions are accepted from officers and members of the club. We also encourage input from members of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon. Opinions expressed are solely that of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon (ARCEC). Articles may be submitted either by e-mail or mail to the editor.

Paul Rios at:
WA6BGScounterpoise@cox.net or by post
12207 Vahalla Dr. Lakeside CA. 92040
The Deadline is Sunday after the General Meeting.

Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon
Web Site: <http://www.wa6bgs.org>

Counterpoise E-Mail address
WA6BGScounterpoise@cox.net
26.2h



Ham of The Year!

Steve Weed, KO4QT

Next Meeting

Program: Bob Birch, KG6RGT from Red Cross.

2010 Officers

President	KC6QLS	Paul Rios	593-9445
Vice-President	W6GRK	Gary Kushe	562-5391
Secretary	N6OPH	Mike Maston	296-9067
Treasurer			

2010 Board of Directors

Affiliated Clubs	AE6AV	Larry Plummer	460-1818
	AF6MX	Carl Cookson	
Membership	KC6TBG	Ann Rios	593-9445
Net Manager	KG6TDP	Mike Oberbauer	444-9090
Public Service	N6NKJ	Rich Beisigl	444-5465
Past President	AD6UK	Nick Prodanovich	
	KG6JCW	Mike "Stogie" Panger	263-4439

2010 Standing Committees

Bylaws	KC6TBG	Ann Rios	593-9445
Club Attire	K6PKS	Paul Schmidt	733-2284
Counterpoise Editor	KC6QLS	Paul Rios	593-9445
Education	N6OPH	Mike Maston	296-9067
EOC H2O District	N6NKJ	Rich Beisigl	444-5465
Estate Sales	N6JOJ	Tom Myrick	449-3547
Field Day	KO4QT	Steve Weed	733-2320
Health & Welfare	AF6BC	Floyd Lang	697-8655
Historian	KI6QDB	Paul Weekly	
Instructor	AE6QW	Gordon Shackelford	561-6323
Photographer	KI6EEL	Bridget Rios	
Post Mistress	KC6TBG	Ann Rios	593-9445
Prizes	AF6BC	Floyd Lang	697-8655
Public Relations	KC6QLS	Paul Rios	593-9445
SANDARC Delegate	K5WFW	Len Fulbright	258-1322
Social Chair		Polo Navarro	328-6209
Swap Meet	N6JOJ	Tom Myrick	449-3547
Technical	W2IRI	Bob Boehme	448-4728
Ticket Lady	KI6EEK	Lisie Rios	
WA6BGS Trustee	AE6CQ	Michael Martak	562-6477
WAMO	KI6UWG	Michael Weekly	
Web Master	KC6QLS	Paul Rios	593-9445
Welcome	KI6EEL	Bridget Rios	

Staff and Writers

KC6QLS	Paul	Editor
W6GRK	Gary	Vice President
KO4QT	Steve	Where is the Weed Patch
N6OPH	Mike	Meeting Minutes
KI6FIH	Monica	PIO City of El Cajon
KI6UWG	Michael	WAMO
KI6EEK	Lisie	Jokes
N6NKJ	Rich	Amateur Radio at Large
AZ6CW	Morris	Chicken Noodle Soup
WA6MHZ	Pat	Crest Radio Museum
KI6EEL	Bridget	Photos

SANTEE DRIVE-IN SWAP MEET

10990 Woodside Ave., North
FOR INFORMATION, CALL 449-SWAP
Ham Radio, Computers, Electronics
ACRES & ACRES OF BARGAINS
1st & 3rd Saturday of the Month
GATES OPEN 6:30 AM

From The President

Paul KC6QLS



First, I would like to say thank you to all who have helped make this club one of the most active clubs in San Diego! It is Members and Board Members that make this club what it is! Next, welcome to the Board Carl, AF6MX and Nick, AD6UK and Gary for stepping up to Vice President!

As one door closes, the next one opens. This year you will have more chances to become Radio Active. The 2010 ARRL Southwestern Division Convention will be here before you know it. Before that the Yuma Ham Fest in February, is always fun to go to. Drive or carpool down, it's a good day trip; radios, antennas, seminars, that cool radio gear for your shack and great eats!

Two Club Picnics, Two Parades, HRO Day, Antenna Parties, Del Mar Fair, and Fire House Six Open House are just a few thing that make this club Radio Active! What do you see yourself doing in 2010? Help out a new Ham become an Elmer! We need to pass on the knowledge that we have gathered over the years to the new Hams. I would like to kick off the Elmer Program this year! Many new hams are asking questions and we have to help them. The past year the Counterpoise put phase one into action by adding the "Ask the Elmer Column". This has helped to a point, but they still need hands on like in the old days. If you look back, you will find that someone in your past has been an Elmer to you on something Ham Radio related, or not, for example "Keeping the Smoke in", "How to Program that Rig?", "What Rig should I get" and most of all "Now I got my License, Now What?" are just the tip of the iceberg questions. Please contact me if you would like to be an Elmer or help out with the program.

73

Paul Rios, KC6QLS
President

Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon

General Membership Meeting
10 December 2009



The General Membership Meeting of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon was called to order by the Club President Paul, KC6QLS at 1905 hrs. This is considered the Annual Meeting of the Corporation.

After the pledge of allegiance, visitors were welcomed.

Floyd, AF6BC was given a Kenwood TS-440 HF radio by Paul, KC6QLS. Floyd had experienced a loss and radio equipment was stolen.

SECRETARY'S report was approved as published in the *Counterpoise*.

TREASURER Gary, W6GRK read the Treasurer's Report. It was approved as read and filed for audit.

PRESIDENT Paul, KC6QLS reported that the *Counterpoise* has been published. Paul reported that Rich, N6NKJ is ill and would be unable to attend this evening's meeting. Also, that Bill Callier has had some recent difficulties with his knees. Paul announced that during this evening's meeting that the election of Officers and Board of Directors would occur. There are two candidates for Ham of the Year. They are: Larry, AE6AV and Steve, KO4QT. The Ham of the Year winner will be announced at the Annual Christmas Party that will be held on 15 December at the Home Town Buffet. Paul asked for volunteers to replace Linda as the Social Chairman. Polo (no call) volunteered to serve as Social Chairman for the 2010 calendar year. This evening's program was given by KB6UJW, the California Area Orange County member. He talked about the lessons learned from the hurricanes during 2004. This was a 35 minute talk.

During the break, the ballots were counted. Also T-shirt orders were confirmed with Steve, KO4QT.

After the break the results of the elections were announced. The following officers were elected by acclamation: President Paul, KC6QLS; Vice President Gary, W6GRK; Secretary Mike, N6OPH and Treasurer Gordon, AE6QW. The 2010 Board of Directors are: Nick, AD6UK; Larry AE6AV; Carl, AF6MX; Ann, KC6TBG; Mike, KG6TDP and Rich, N6NKJ. Paul reported on the Mother Goose Parade which was smaller this year. Also, the Amateur Radio Display will be at the Serra Mesa Library during the months of March and April 2010.

VICE PRESIDENT Steve, KO4QT announced that there were three antenna parties scheduled during November and December. Most were

rescheduled due to inclement weather. There is another such party scheduled for 12 December. The speaker for the January 2010 meeting is Bob Birch, and he will talk about Red Cross topics. SANDARC did not meet in December. However, it was announced by Mike, N6OPH that the City of San Diego is preparing restrictive antenna ordinance. The City has set the end of the official comment period on 28 December. SANDARC and the DX club are in the forefront of this issue. Mike will continue to provide updates during the course of the next year.

NET MANAGER Mike, KG6TDP announced that the average checks-in for the WAMO nets has been about 28.

MEMBERSHIP Chairman Ann, KC6TBG announced that there were 66 members present at this evening's meeting and 3 visitors. The last WAMO issued is 1825.

EDUCATION Chairman Mike, N6OPH announced that he would hold a Technician Class starting the second Tuesday of January 2010 provided that there are at least six students willing to attend the six week class. The classes would be held at the Chase Lipton House at the rear of the church.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The Yuma Ham Fest will be held over the weekend of 19-20 February. Also, the Club's Annual Christmas Party will be held at the Home Town Buffet on 15 December starting at around 1730 hrs. At that time the Ham of the Year for 2009 winner will be announced.

There being no further business before the General Membership the meeting was adjourned at 2120 hrs.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Paul Maston, N6OPH
Secretary
Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon



From The Vice President W6GRK Gary



And we are off to a New Year and along with that, a new Vice President. Most of you know me, but just in case you don't, I will give you a little background on myself. I was born right here in San Diego, California. I have a twin sister ten minutes younger than me and a sister ten years older than me. My Dad was a twin, 10 minutes older than this twin brother. I married my wife, Carol, 34 years ago and started my own family. We were blessed with two girls, one of which blessed us with our first grandchild. I drove a bus for Greyhound Lines Inc. for 9 years. In 1986 I hired on with the California Department of Corrections (State Prison System). Twenty three and a half years later, I am calling it quits and retiring on December 29, 2009. I got into radio when I was just a boy. My Dad played drums in a band. One of his band members had a CB (Citizens Band Radio) in his car. I use to love to listen to it when he would come over to our house to practice with the other band members. After about a year I convinced my Dad to get a set of radios for ourselves. We both bought Heathkit CB radio kits and built them from scratch. When we finished, mine worked but my Dad's did not. We had a neighbor that lived three doors down from us that had a boy in the family who liked to work on electronics. My Dad took his radio down to him and when the boy opened up the case he found that my Dad had not trimmed any of the leads from the resistors. They all stuck up off the circuit board and were shorting out between the other ones. By the way, that boy that lived three doors down from us was named Carl Ferree. Well, if that name rings a bell, it should... It's the same Carl Ferree that is a member of our radio club. Carl cut all of the resistors, trimmed them down to size and re-soldered them into the circuit board of the unit. Then the radio worked and we were off. We used the CB radios for about 15 years. When I married my wife, I had a jeep and we joined the San Diego 4 Wheelers. They used CB

WA6BGS Nets

Mike Oberbauer:	KG6TDP	Net Manger
Mike Oberbauer:	KG6TDP	Net Controller
Frito	N6WKB	Wide Open Nets
Axel	KI6RRN	Donut Net

WAMO NETS:

Wednesday and Saturday Nights

8:00 p.m. local time 7:45 "Early Checkins"

This is an open net and all are invited. Early check-ins will be taken.

Donut Net:

Monday, 7:00 p.m.

Bring your Donuts. GOT MILK?

Wide Open Ham Net:

Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.

Frito's Corn Chip Net:

Thursday, 7:00 p.m. on 28.435 Mhz USB

Nets held on Club's WA6BGS Repeaters System

RX 147.420 (146.475) 107.2 PL

RX 224.080 – 107.2 PL

RX 445.900 – 107.2 PL

Don't miss it. All members welcome.

WAMO means Worked All Members Only.

The purpose of WAMO is to encourage people to people communication between club members and to publicize the name of the club among fellow amateurs.

Calendar of Events January 2010

Jan.	2:	Swap Meet, Santee Drive In, 6:30 am
Jan.	2:	T-Hunt, Grossmont College lot, 6:00 pm
Jan.	5:	Board Meeting, 7:00 pm
Jan.	14:	General Meeting, 7:00 pm
Jan.	17:	Quake Net 2.1
Jan.	18:	Counterpoise Dead Line

Upcoming Event Dates

Feb.	14:	SD 1/2 Marathon
Feb.	19:	Yuma Ham Fest
Feb.	20:	Yuma Ham Fest
Sept.	17:	ARRL SW Convention San Diego



Continued on Page 14

ARCEC Membership Form

Please print clearly, complete all info and return to Membership Chair with your payment:

Individual Membership \$18.00

Family Membership \$30.00

Counterpoise by MAIL add \$18.00

Counterpoise by Email or Website FREE

Name: _____

Class of License: _____

Other Family Members and Calls: _____

Address: _____

Call: _____ WAMO #: _____ Birthday: _____

Phone #: _____ Email address: _____

Check One: **New Member** **Renewal** **Returning Member**

*If you are a returning member, you will keep your original WAMO # _____

Check One: I give my permission to publish my info on the Club Roster coming out **Yes** **No**

If no, state exactly what information you do not want published:

Check all the apply: ARRL Member ARES Member Other _____

Would you like to be in the Counterpoise Spotlight? **Yes** **No**

Would you like to be a member of The East County Response Team? **Yes** **No**

Mail with payment to: Membership Chair, ARCEC, P.O. Box 50, El Cajon, CA 92022

**To be eligible for the drawing, must be postmarked no later than December 1 of the year.*

REV 9-2-2009



5375 Kearny Villa Road
San Diego, CA 92123
(858) 560-4900 or 1-800-854-6046

LAKESIDE MUFFLER & WELDING
COMPLETE AUTO REPAIR



(619) 561-3202

GARY YATES
OWNER

12461 WOODSIDE AVE.
LAKESIDE, CA 92040

The Counterpoise is also online in FULL COLOR. Check it out and the club's website at: www.wa6bgs.org

Get your advanced copy by e-mail. I will send it out in .PDF format the night it goes to print. E-mail me and let me know that you would like a copy. Size of file maybe up to 1.5 mb at times.

Computer Roster Available

Want the roster sent to you via e-mail? Send an e-mail to Ann Rios KC6TBG, and she will send you the database back as an attachment. She uses Excel, but may be able to convert to various formats if asked. Send your request to 619-593-9445 or KC6TBG@cox.net

Fun Page

Birthday

January	4	AF6MX	Carl	Cookson
January	7	N6WKB	Frito	Samano (L)
January	6	AD6O	Jim	Quinn
January	11	KE6PW	Roger	Brown
January	12	KI6VTM	Lee	Graf
January	18	NO CALL	Mona	Rios
January	19	N6ERD	Dan	Severance
January	22	KA6OTR	AI	Mercer
January	22	KG6FBV	Calvin	Tyler
January	25	KN6CB	Doug	Konishi
January	29	K6UMA	Joe	McCormick
January	29	WA6PPG	Carl	Ferree



Word Search

M J X B W D O O N K E X P E K M B R E H T A E W S X R
E X B W P H K N O I T U A C E R P
W J H J N P M P J B P O E E Q K W
Q T O W E R Z W M C Z D P L E E
E G M D A M A G E W G J E O X
B P Z B E N K W Z Q X J X H N E B
M E K G Q I H P J K H D W F A B U
H R A P W P Q Z M O C I M C Q D
J I N E I M Z E X P D G N G I W D
X E T R N J H M K G U W J H R M Y
B N E X D K W R Z R B D U B R G E
W C N J L P G O A O M Q R U H Q
D E N B O W P T P U D E Y Z H G K
O X A G A M I S K N W G B A J E R
P G P W D O E H Q D M Z V H Z J O
N Q T O W E R Z W M C Z D P L E E
K E B W P H K N O I T U A C E R P

<input type="checkbox"/> ANTENNA	<input type="checkbox"/> INJURY
<input type="checkbox"/> BUDDY	<input type="checkbox"/> KENWOOD
<input type="checkbox"/> CALCULATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> PRECAUTION
<input type="checkbox"/> CONFIGURATION	<input type="checkbox"/> PREWORK
<input type="checkbox"/> DAMAGE	<input type="checkbox"/> STORM
<input type="checkbox"/> EXPERIENCE	<input type="checkbox"/> TOWER
<input type="checkbox"/> GROUND	<input type="checkbox"/> WEATHER
<input type="checkbox"/> HAVOC	<input type="checkbox"/> WINDLOAD
<input type="checkbox"/> HURRICANE	<input type="checkbox"/> WINDS
<input type="checkbox"/> ICOM	<input type="checkbox"/> WIRE

Brain Thinkers

----- This Months -----

17 = D. is Q. N.

102 = F. in the E. S. B. 102

365 = D in a Y.

Last Months Word Search

ASK AN ELMER

What is Antenna Wind Load?

Living in southern California, you know that the wind can wreak havoc on a lot of things... and it can really get to kicking around here.

If you keep up with the News, you know that each "fall" during "Hurricane Season", the US "gulf" and "east" coasts take one heck of a beating. You've also seen the devastation that winds from these storms have caused. Hurricane winds are described in categories... from Category 1 through Category 5. To give you an example of just how strong these winds are, a Category 1 Hurricane will have winds ranging from 74 – 95 mph... and that's the smallest of Hurricanes. On the outside edge of the Hurricane wind area are what's called Tropical Storm winds which range from 39 – 73 mph.

As far as weather goes, we're really fortunate to be living in here Southern California. As a rule, we don't have to worry about Hurricanes or Tornados. On the other hand, however, we do have our own kind of winds and you've all heard of them. They're our Santa Ana's (winds blowing from the east toward our coast)! From our past experience, we know how devastating our Santa Ana's can be. Just take for example our Wild Fires of 2003 and 2007. These fires started out miles east of San Diego, but, in no time at all, they'd reached San Diego's major population centers, stretching from about the Mexican Border to Escondido and San Marcos. During our 2007 fires, the fires in North County reached just a short distance from the ocean. How'd they get there so fast? THE WIND! The strength of the winds that blew these fires so quickly to the west were in the upper edge of "tropical storm" strength and may have even reached Category 1 Hurricane speed.

Our most recent devastating winds came in early December of 2009 and a few of our Club members antenna systems were directly affected by them...see the folded Yagi in the photo? Its "Wind Load" was exceeded!



OK, back to our original question... "What is Antenna Wind Load"? Keeping the previous information in mind and before you decide on an antenna system to install at your home, you gotta to do some "figuring" (calculations).

- 1 Do you live on a hill, in a valley, on a mountain top, or on flat, open land?
- 2 Historically, how strong have the winds been at your house?

This is very important information to have so you know if the antenna you install will still be there after our next wind storm. Before you buy a new antenna, make sure you take a look at the operator's manual that comes with it. In the "Specifications" section (normally found toward the back of the manual), you'll find its "Wind Load". This will give you the wind speed the antenna is capable of accepting before it meets its demise. If the winds at your antenna location and elevation exceed this "Wind Load", you may end up scheduling an unexpected antenna party to get back on the air with another "new" antenna.

Your antenna isn't the only thing that'll need to be checked for "Wind Load" however. If your plans include a tower, you'll need to decide what type of tower to install... check the manufacturer's stated "Wind Load"! Generally, the higher you go above the ground, the stronger the winds get, so, if you live in a high wind area, you may want to



Continued Page 18

**The Editor's
Corner
KC6QLS Paul**



Editor's Corner

If you would like to write for the Counterpoise from time to time or just that one time, or like to put your thought in on Ask an Elmer Column, please send me a story or your idea. Just keep it Amateur Radio and/or Club related. To the younger Hams out there, we also would like to hear your ideas on Amateur Radio and how did you get into Ham Radio.

73 Paul Rios, KC6QLS
Editor

Public Relations

I would like to say a job well done to HRO! The two events they hosted last year were a good thing to see. Local Hams "Button Hole QSO's" is a good way to put a face to the voice. The last one, where the venders where there to ask questions, I found very helpful and they answered most of all my questions I had about that radio or antenna. I hope more of these are planned this year.

I'm still looking into the Extreme East County QSO Party. In February I will be able to do a face to face QSO with members of El Centro and Yuma. Hopefully, I will be able to nail down some information on the location and date.

73 Paul Rios, KC6QLS Public Relations

Volunteers Needed

Up Coming Events
See Club's Calendar on Page 4

E-Mail

Address for the Counterpose. Please submit all *Counterpose* Mail to:
WA6BGScounterpose@cox.net

Prize Table Needs Help

Thank you for your contributions to the Prize Table! We still need your Support and Help or it may just end up a thing of the past. Please contact: Floyd Lang AF6BC at 303-6711.

Things to keep in mind

*Get on the El Cajon ARC Reflector
To sign up visit:*

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/elcajonarc/>
You will get the latest news about The Club and things going on in the Ham world.

Quote of the Month

"The measure of success is not whether you have a tough problem to deal with, but whether it is the same problem you had last year."

- John Foster Dulles

JOKE

What do you call a pig that does karate?

A pork chop.

What lies on its back, one hundred feet in the air?

A dead centipede.

Lisie KI6EEK

Crest Radio Museum

Pat Bunsold, WA6MHZ



AN EASY WEEKENDER Project for Digital interfaces by WA6MHZ

At the last Swapmeet, I scored a Rigblaster Pro digital interface for PSK and RTTY. I already had a Homebrew interface that has worked for years, but upon trying it lately, it suffered from severe RFI and audio feedback. I was unable to cure that, so I bought the Rigblaster.

Installing it, I found I could no longer use the radio for voice operation due to the way it was configured. My Homebrew interface took those considerations in mind, but the Rigblaster had a severe limitation on Receiver audio. When switched in, the RX AF was turned way way down for a proper Waterfall drive, and then had to be cranked way back up for normal SSB voice listening. This is a pain!

So this external interface speaker box was built. It allows independent setting of the Digital audio for a good waterfall level.

Parts required:

- 1) Aluminum box, small.
- 2) 1/8 inch Miniature plugs Quantity 2
- 3) 1/8 inch Speaker jack
- 4) L-Pad control
- 5) SPDT Toggle switch
- 6) grommet
- 7) Wire as required

The most difficult item to find will be the L-Pad. This is really just an 8 ohm Pot, so if you can find a 10 ohm or even 100 ohm, it will work. The L-Pad is nice because it comes with a dial and nice big knob. I scored a couple on Ebay awhile back. Can't find them at Radio Shack or Frys, but maybe they are in the Digikey or Mouser catalogs. I saw a 10 Ohm in Digikey for \$3. There are several true L-Pads on the Web if you shop on the internet.

They should be quite common at the Swapmeets, as they are 1960s technology. It is a good idea to use small shielded cable such as RG-174 for the speaker lines. Since they are used on RX only, there shouldn't be a problem with RFI. Drill the aluminum box and mount the controls. The speaker jack goes on the back near the hole for the grommet. Both of the plug cables exit the

grommet. Mark which cable goes to the radio and the one that goes to the computer. Small hookup wire is used inside to wire between the Switch, L-Pad and Jack. Follow the schematic or check out the visual pics.

Once wired up, it is time to test. Throw the switch into the VOICE position after connecting all cables to where they go (The external speaker plug goes into the Jack) and listen to the radio. Adjust the volume to a level you usually listen to SSB stations on. Now it is time to try digital. Move the Switch to the Digital position and adjust the Digital level for the proper Waterfall drive. This is usually dark blue with yellowish Digital signals. All yellow means the drive is way too high. You only want the signals received to be yellow against the dark blue background.

Now, you should be able to switch back and forth between modes without having to hassle with fiddling with the audio gain controls much.

73

—

Pat Bunsold WA6MHZ

Curator

Crest Radio Museum



Continued Page 12

Chicken Noodle Soup for the Ham Radio Operator's Soul

"ARRL Announces Take Your Linear Amplifier to Work Day"

Turmoil and change have shaken the ranks of our hobby in recent years. Controversy over incentive licensing, the role of the code, and concern over the dwindling ranks of our hobby have caused angst and sown the seeds of division among hams, young and old. Now, with the spring of renewal in Cycle 24 upon us, it is time for a healing catharsis for our hobby, with "Chicken Noodle Soup for the Ham Radio Operator's Soul".

In a reversal to years of behind-the-scenes, "give-and-take", conciliatory efforts to accommodate a growing matrix of local regulations prohibiting Ham Radio operators from erecting large, effective high frequency radio antennas in communities across the United States, the ARRL, the National Association for the Promotion of Amateur Radio appears to have thrown down the gauntlet, with the announcement of a bold new public relations initiative. The initiative has been carefully planned to raise the awareness of the little-known hobby, which for years has played a central role in countless disasters across the United States for years. The strategy appears to be a move to test FCC regulations requiring that cities make "reasonable accommodations" for Amateur Radio Operators "wherever they are". The ARRL is encouraging Hams everywhere to bring high power amateur transmitting equipment to their workplace environment, in a ploy to raise awareness of the Amateur Radio hobby, and demonstrate how high-power Ham Radio operating in a work place setting can lead to some interesting results.

The program is a spin off on an old ARRL public relations campaign, developed then shelved by the League Board of Directors who feared it would generate negative public

reaction during the days of terrestrial television broadcasting. Now, with the advent of miniaturized Ham amplifiers and HF radios, and widespread adoption of cable television, the League has resurrected the long-forgotten public-relations advertising campaign called "*Ham Radio – Hitting You Right Between the Eyes®*"

In addition to raising the visibility and presence of Ham Radio by bringing it into workplaces across the country, the campaign has the added benefit of "checkmating" an increasingly bothersome phenomena - motorists who turn up the volume on car stereos at intersections, in an attempt to draw attention to themselves. Demonstrating what 1000 watts of high frequency continuous wave or "CW" telegraphy, coupled with a high gain, high-frequency antenna will do to such an offending mobile car stereo, gathered reporters from US media were treated to a live demonstration at League Headquarters in Newington, Connecticut, by League President Dr. J Hammond Swiss W3HOS. "*Light 'em up*" hollered an energized Swiss, at the press conference announcing the kick off of the "*Ham Radio – Hitting You Right Between the Eyes®*" advertising campaign. Smith's comments were a veiled reference to the likelihood that thousands of Ham linear amplifiers, operated "QRO", or at full legal power, will likely cause the signals of thousands of licensed Ham Radio operators "appear" on "personal digital assistants" or PDAs, telephones, and laptops across the business world and in doing so, raising awareness of the existence of the Amateur Radio hobby.

As expected, as the crowd of participants simultaneously began sending "CQ" in 5 to 10 word-per-minute Morse Code or CW on high-powered HF transmitters, the Newington neighborhood surrounding the ARRL Headquarters building seemed to erupt in activity. As a large crowd of on-lookers watched, within seconds of Swiss's "green light," lawn

Chicken Noodle Soup Continued

sprinklers on adjacent properties came to life, garage doors rumbled up and down, as if by magic, and a symphony of car alarms went off. The crowd of observers seemed enthralled by the simultaneous eruption of technology, while a visibly pleased Swiss leaned his head back and was heard to yell: "I love it!"

In a gesture to other segments of the Amateur Radio community not involved with use of the International Morse Code, the demonstration included other *modes*, in addition to CW. An out-of-state contingent representing the Amateur Contest Community, Contest Club of Southern California, were on hand operating single sideband, transmitting frenzied calls for contacts on the 20 meter US Amateur Band after Swiss gave the "go-ahead".

Amid the confusion and activity in front of ARRL headquarters, a small, unnoticed drama began to play out. As the group of contest club operators continued their frenzied activity, immediately adjacent to the street in front of League Headquarters, a vehicle with an oversized stereo and speaker system, turned the corner and slowly began to draw closer to the assembled operating positions and impromptu antennas. As calls of "CQ contest, CQ contest, anyone else out there we can work?" echoed across the front of the building, the crowd observing the demonstration suddenly became aware of the approaching car. Four young, muscular and tattooed passengers, grim-faced and physically intimidating, glared at the crowd and operators with HT radios and pocket protectors. Then, just as the car approached within about 100 feet of the operating sites, the vehicle seemed to come to life, as if taken over by a controlling force. The car, modified to ride low, relative to the surface of the street, was suddenly repeatedly thrust upward, and then dropped down, precariously close to the street, with the passengers wide-eyed and in disbelief, hanging on for dear life. The blaring music, now replaced by the shrill sounds of Morse Code, accompanied by a driving, heavy rhythm.

The car seemed suspended, unable to move forward, and all the while the occupants clinging to door handles and one another, as if at a rodeo, riding a 4-door bull. The gathered crowd and operators, now fully aware of the car, the passengers, and the unfolding drama, seemed delighted by the sounds of the code coming from the interior of the car. One young Ham was heard to remark "Aw, cool. Look, dad, a tricked out contest car. I want one of *those* when I get my license." The operators, now aware that their frenzied calls were literally beating the stuffing out of the car and its passengers, stopped their sending. Now stopped, the passengers boiled out of the car, at once terrified, puzzled, and slightly upset. As the young men looked the car over to find the source of the problem, a smiling Dr. Swiss strode over to the group, shook their hands, and in a fatherly tone, introduced them to Amateur Radio. After admonishing the young men for buying "cheap stereo equipment" and giving the four pointers on proper mobile radio installation, they were sent on their way. After determining there was nothing mechanically wrong with the car, the group accepted a complimentary copy of "Now You're Talking" and an offer of a jump-start from ARRL Technical Director and noted "gear-head" Dr. Ed "Bugs" Bunny.

Editor's note: Hams are advised that there are better ways to get noticed by the public than operating QRO.

Morris AZ6CW

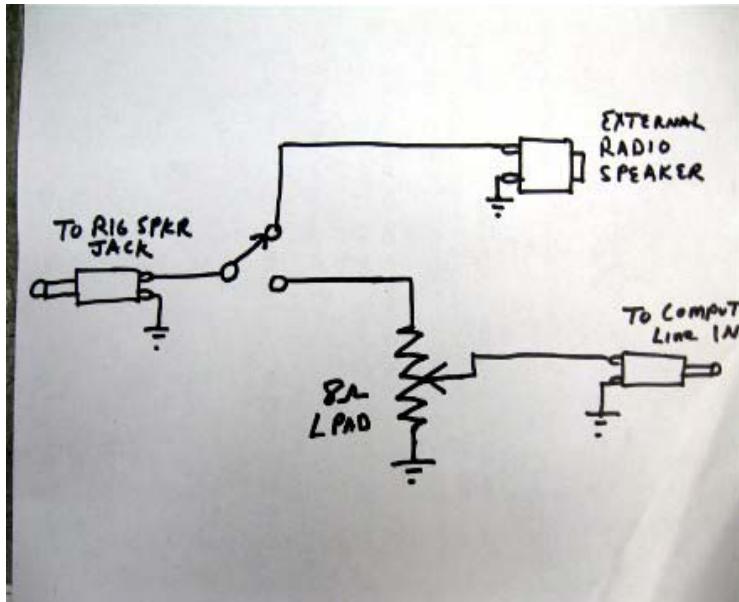
CUSTOM ENGRAVING

• CLUB BADGES
• HAM CALL BADGES
• PLAQUES
• QSL CARDS



CALL: (619) 593-9445
E-MAIL: QLS_ENGRAVING@COX.NET
WEB: QLS_ENGRAVING.COM
MAIL TO: P.O. BOX 913, EL CAJON CA 92022

Crest Museum Continued



2010 ARRL Southwestern Division
Amateur Radio Convention
September 17, 18 & 19, 2010
San Diego, California
Four Points, By Sheraton Hotel
San Diego

For up to date information about the Convention, please visit us at the website: www.sandarc.org/

See you at the Convention!

CLub
Photos



Membership Report

Ann KC6TBG



Happy New Year to all! Everyone's 2009 ARCEC Dues have now expired and everyone's 2010 ARCEC Dues are now due. If you have not already renewed, please do so as soon as possible and prior to January 31, 2010 by filling out the form that is in the Counterpoise, completing all the information, and bringing it to the January Club Meeting or mailing it to the post office box. The 2010 ARCEC Roster will be finalized in February and the new roster will be available at the February meeting. Anyone who does not complete the form will not be published, and anyone wishing to not be published on the Club Roster should be sure to answer the question regarding not to publish your information. Please note that your dues support Field Day and other club events so each member's renewal is vital to the success of our Club.

Congratulations to all who have upgraded your license!

If you have upgraded your license within the past year, please contact me at [kc6tbg@cox.net](mailto:k6tbg@cox.net) or see me at the meeting so that I can update your information on the ARCEC Roster.



All Members are welcome to participate on all ARCEC weekly Nets. The WAMO Net is an opportunity to meet new members, collect WAMO's and practice your communication skills. Please join us. For more information on the dates and times, see page 4 of this Newsletter.

The 2009 ARCEC Roster is for club use only. However, please do not use this club roster to contact club members at the telephone numbers and addresses listed on the roster for the purpose of working a WAMO. The Rules for working WAMO are listed on the website and must be followed in order to receive WAMO Certificates. Also, copies of the WAMO Rules are available at club meetings.

73, Ann, KC6TBG

Individual Dues Membership:
\$18.00 per year (\$1.50 per month):

January	\$ 18.00	July	\$ 9.00
February	\$ 16.50	August	\$ 7.50
March	\$ 15.00	September	\$ 6.00
April	\$ 13.50	October	\$ 4.50
May	\$ 12.00	November	\$ 3.00
June	\$ 10.50	December	\$ 1.50 *

*plus \$18.00 for the following year

Family Dues Membership:
\$30.00 per year (\$2.50 per month):

January	\$ 30.00	July	\$ 15.00
February	\$ 27.50	August	\$ 12.50
March	\$ 25.00	September	\$ 10.00
April	\$ 22.50	October	\$ 7.50
May	\$ 20.00	November	\$ 5.00
June	\$ 17.50	December	\$ 2.50 *

*plus \$30.00 for the following year

Ann, KC6TBG
Membership Chair

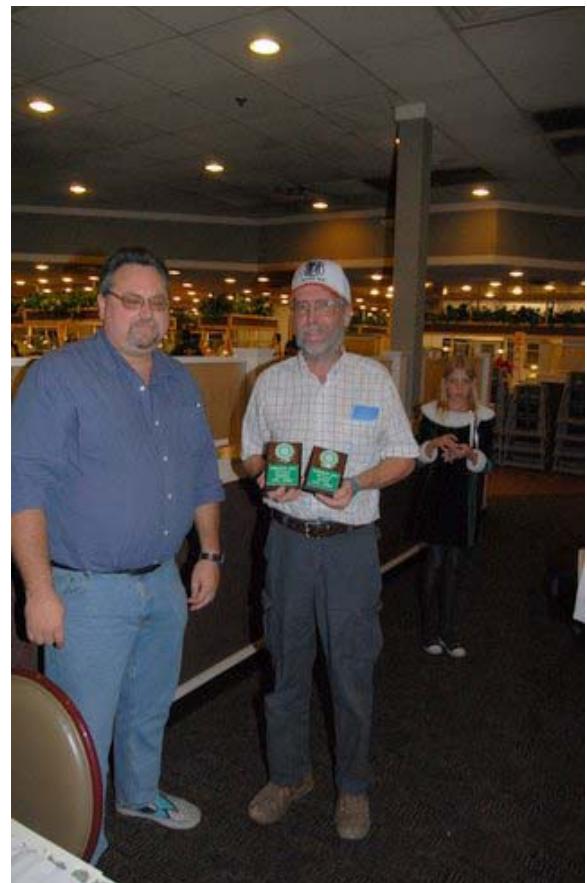
From The Vice-President Continued

radios to communicate on the runs so I got to use my radio again. On April 22, 2008 I got my Technician Amateur Radio License. On July 1, 2008 I upgraded to my General Amateur Radio License. I joined the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon in May of 2008, and became the Club Treasurer for 2009 which brings you up to date. Now, I am trying to fill some mighty big shoes. Steve Weed has done an amazing job as Vice President for the Club. He will be greatly missed. We must and will move on. I promise to do the best job I can. I don't expect it to be an easy job. I cannot devote the time that Steve gave to this club on my own. Steve and the Club were blessed that his wife Linda too was a Ham. She too gave a lot to this club. Although my wife fully supports me in my hobby, she is not a Ham, nor does she have any interest in the hobby. I do have to balance my family life with my Ham life. This club is as we always hear "Radio Active". The Club does a lot of events during the year. It takes a lot of people who are willing to commit to the Club and give of their time. This Club is your club just as much as it is my club. That is what makes it our Club. To make it a good club, we all have to do our part. Some bigger than others, and some smaller than others, but the main thing is that we all take a part in it and unite in our cause. There will be many events during 2010, and I will need both your support and your commitment to pull this off. I anticipate the use of more committees this year. I urge you all to support and join one of these committees. If we all take a little part and spread the work among us all, no one will be too burdened and the Club will run much more efficiently. I hope you all have had a wonderful Christmas and I wish you all joy, happiness and success in the coming year.

73, W6GRK Gary



Some ARCEC Photos



Christmas Drinner Photos



Christmas Drinner Photos





From the Desk of Monica Zech PIO City of El Cajon

What's Happening In El Cajon:

Academy - #1 - Space Available

February 6 - Disaster preparedness/CERT organization

February 20 - Disaster Medical/ Triage

March 6 - Fire Extinguishers/Light Search and Rescue classroom

March 20 - Fire Extinguishers/Light Search and Rescue hands on - *At HTF

April 3 - Disaster Psychology/ Haz-Mat/ Terrorism

April 17 - All inclusive manipulative/ review - *At HTF

Academy - #2 - Space Available

May 22 - Disaster preparedness/CERT organization

June 5 - Disaster Medical/ Triage

June 19 - Extinguishers/Light Search and Rescue classroom - (two week break)

July 10 - Fire Extinguishers/Light Search and Rescue hands on - *At HTF

July 24 - Disaster Psychology/ Haz-Mat/ Terrorism

August 7 - All inclusive manipulative/ review - *At HTF

These classes are held on Saturday mornings from 8:30am to 12:30pm. Class location for "registered" CERT students is 8054 Allison Avenue, La Mesa Fire Station 11 in La Mesa. If you would like to register please call (619) 441-1737. Please leave your name and best contact phone number. The HTF location is 1301 N. Marshal in El Cajon for the hands-on training.

Classes are limited to 35 to 40 participants per academy, ages 16 and up. Please, for safety concerns, we ask you do not bring babies or children to these classes. Any classes missed may be made up during the following academy. Classes are taught by members of the El Cajon, La Mesa and Santee Fire Departments. Visit www.elcajonfire.com for more information on CERT.

*Please keep me informed of your community events by placing me on your mailing or e-mail list. If you have an event in the City of El Cajon that you would like to share, please contact Monica Zech, Public Information Officer for the City of El Cajon, via e-mail at mzech@ci.el-cajon.ca.us, or send to: Monica Zech, Public Information Officer, City of El Cajon, 200 Civic Center Way, El Cajon, CA 92020.

Ask an Elmer Continued

consider something like a crank-up tower with guys that secure it to the ground. In this configuration, you'll be able to lower your antenna if the winds above ground exceed your "Wind Load". Whether your antenna supporting structure is a mast or a tower, make sure to take all precautions to insure your antenna stays where you put it during a wind storm!

Along the same lines and as a note of safety, when guying your antenna, insure your guys are made of a material that won't degrade over time. Guy material that succumbs to the weather will quickly leave you without a usable antenna ('cause it's on the ground) and may cause damage or injury if it falls. Remember, NEVER, NEVER, NEVER, work on your above ground antenna system alone...use the buddy system!

That's it for this month, Happy HAM'ing..

Next Month's Question is: *What is "Take off Angle"*

73, Elmer A. Ham

Please submit your thoughts to WA6BGScounterpoise@cox.net and the Elmers will answer with your feedback. Also, please send in any question that you might have.

Information and Resources:

Club Members and People thinking of joining.
Radio QSO's & Button Hole QSO's

Amateur Radio At Large

From Rich N6NKJ



Hello again,

I hope all of you had a very Merry Christmas and have, or will have, a very Happy New Year. I sure hope 2010 will be a whole lot better than 2009, and I hope Santa brought all of you all the Ham Gear you wanted, as well as other things you asked for.

If you missed the Club's Christmas Dinner, you missed out on a great time and a lot of fun. Chuck Wood, WD6APP, won the \$100 prize, but there is a story behind how he won the "Grand Prize." Before the drawing, our President Paul, KC6QLS was talking to Chuck and asked him if he had signed in and got his free ticket? Chuck said "no, but I will." And as the saying goes, the rest is history.

Paul, KC6QLS and I, went to Ham Radio Outlet during their "Manufactures Appreciation Day" to sell tickets to the ARRL Convention coming up this year. While there, several of our Club members won Icom handheld radios as well as other great prizes; in fact, Paul won a \$60.00 crimping tool, and I won a Diamond 2m/ 70cm antenna for my VX 6 AND VX 150 handhelds.

There were several well known "HAM" celebrities at this event; Bob Heil, K9EID and Chip Margelli, K7JA OF Heil Sound, and John Kennon, N7CQQ, who was there with the Icom group. John Kennon and Chip Margelli have been on several big DXpeditions over the years. Bob Heil is one of the nicest people you can ever hope to meet. No matter how many times you meet him, he always greets you as if you were an old friend. I have had the pleasure of meeting him a few times, and he always smiles and has a warm greeting for you.

All of us, who were at HRO for the Appreciation Day, should thank Jose, Jerry and Joe for putting on a great event for the Hams of San Diego County and Tijuana, Mexico.

January 1, 2010, is almost here as I write this, and it means that our Club will once again be involved with as many, if not more events this year, and we will need your active help in working these events. So when we ask for help, please don't be shy in raising your hand. Also, I ask that you check REACT's calendar for upcoming events. They are a big part of the Red Flag Patrol, and I hope we can support them when they need help. In 2010, why not decide to become involved with one or more emergency groups, who really need more amateurs to help out with public service or emergency communications. Here are just a few groups that could use your help: ARES, REACT, RACES, Red Cross, or some other group.

Congratulations to Joseph, KI6TTF and Joseph, KI6UPY, on upgrading to General.

I would like to wish all the members of our United States Military and their families a belated Merry Christmas and a wonderful New year; GOD BLESS YOU.

Rich, N6NKJ



J. P. TURNER & COMPANY, L.L.C.

9570 Cuyamaca Street Suite 104
Santee CA 92071
Office: (619) 561-2839
Fax: (619) 631-0611

PATRICK H. CHAMBERS, MBA
Branch Manager

*Securities offered through
J.P. Turner & company, LLC (Member SIPC)
Investment Advice and Financial Planning
Offered through J.P. Turner & Company Capital
Management LLC (A registered investment advisor)
Cal Insurance Lic # OA79034*

Pchambers@jpturner.com
www.patrickchambers.com

Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon
P.O. Box 50
El Cajon, CA 92022

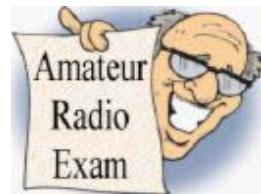


Issue Date 1/2010

For Ham Radio
Classes
Tech License Starts
Soon

Please Contact:
Mike Maston
N6OPH
(619) 296-9067

Please Visit Our Website at
www.WA6BGS.org



VEC Testing Sites

1 st Saturday:	El Cajon 10:00 am First Lutheran Church of EC 867 South Lincoln Ave.
2 nd Saturday:	Carlsbad 9:30 am Carlsbad Safety Center Orion Way Carlsbad
3 rd Saturday:	North Park 10:00 am North Park Recreation Center 4044 Idaho Street San Diego
4 th Saturday:	Chula Vista 8:30 am Fire Station #7 1640 Santa Venetia Chula Vista
5 th or last Saturday:	Escondido 9:00 am LDS Church 1917 East Washington St.

To make advance reservations or to find out more info
from the site captain, please call 465-EXAM (3926)